



SANDY PASCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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REP. PASCH STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF EXTREME MINING LEGISLATION

MADISON – State Representative Sandy Pasch (D – Whitefish Bay) – a member of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economy and Small Business – issued the following statement after Assembly Republicans voted to pass Assembly Bill 426, which would make significant changes to our state’s mining laws:

“From the get-go, this legislation was broken beyond repair. It was drafted behind closed doors by politically connected mining interests, with little-to-no input from key experts or affected community members. The bill’s authors – who have repeatedly covered from taking credit for creating this legislation – clearly did not listen to the significant concerns that have been voiced across the state. Rather, they chose to craft an extreme and polarizing bill that will severely weaken environmental and public health protections, while drastically reducing citizen participation in the mine permitting process.

“I have held that we must sincerely engage all stakeholders – not just mining interests – to work together on a bill that will create quality jobs, promote the public interest, protect our public health, and preserve our vital natural resources. Unfortunately, those supporting this seriously flawed bill have refused to slow down and go back to the drawing board to craft a well-thought bill that would accomplish these goals.

“At a time when Wisconsin ranks forty-fourth nationwide in private-sector job creation and has lost jobs for six straight months, our constituents simply deserve better. They have witnessed the damage that special interest handouts and political giveaways – done under the guise of ‘creating jobs’ or ‘moving Wisconsin forward’ – have inflicted upon Wisconsin’s shared values and proud traditions. It is time to get serious about working together to put Wisconsin back on its feet and quit the divisive political posturing.”

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